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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Colombia

SUBJECT Situation in the Llanos of Casanare

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. [redacted] provided two documents containing reports by employees of the National Registrar in the Department of Boyaca, concerning the situation in the Llanos of Casanare.
2. One is a letter, dated 24 April 1950, from a departmental delegate of the National Registrar, Cesar Dimas Barrero, in which he transcribes a report from one Carlos Acero at Tunja, Boyaca. Acero had apparently been named the municipal registrar at Zapatosa. Acero recounted how he had gone to take possession of his office in Zapatosa on 16 April 1950 and had found the town deserted. The bodies of nine policemen and one woman were hanging from trees. He had found it difficult to travel about the area and was insulted by the people, but since he carried recommendations from well-known people in the llanos, he was not molested.
3. The second is a letter to the Minister of Government, dated in Bogota on 3 May 1950, from Roberto Gomez Mejia, an official of the National Registrar's office. The writer quoted two paragraphs from a report received from one of the delegates in the Department of Boyaca as follows:

".....All the eastern part of Boyaca extending as far as the new Comisaria of Casanare is affected and the labor of the municipal registrars has become almost impossible. They are either fleeing, or have not been able to reach their destinations, or have had to return to Tunja to report on the situation in those regions. It is, therefore, futile to try to register these people, and I think it is useless to try to sustain these heroic functionaries in a position which is completely lacking in effective object.

".....Human life has no value whatsoever in the municipalities of Pisba, Manare, Tanara, Loreno, Labrazagrande, Recetor, Sacama, and Chameza. The armed Liberal revolutionaries enter the town, burn, murder, and commit all kinds of crimes, leaving everywhere desolation and ashes. Sometimes it is the police who enter in the same manner.

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murder, burn, and penetrate horrible disasters. Frankly one doesn't know whether it is the tormented and persecuted Liberals who defend themselves against the police and exercise vengeance or if it is the contrary, that is to say, if the police, persecuted and assassinated by the Liberals of the llanos, are only carrying out such reprisals as they consider just. It is not a rare thing to pass through a small town and see the bodies of policemen and revolutionaries hanging from trees."

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